

How the John Muir Award is helping to care for Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

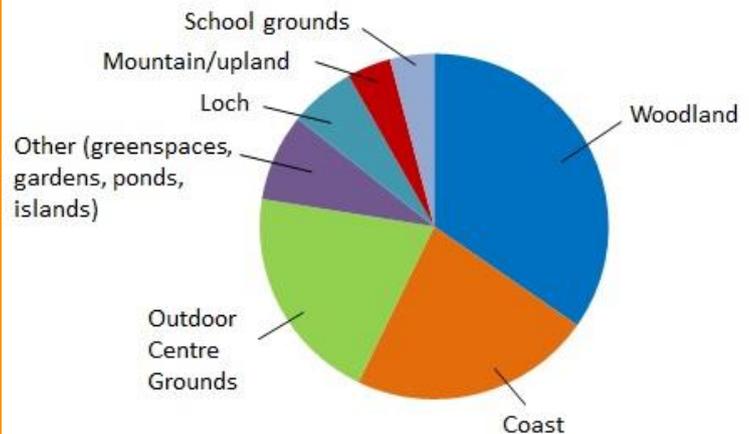


Through involvement in the John Muir Award, a total of **1096 people** have contributed almost **4000 hours** of environmental volunteering activity in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. This was captured between April 2014 and March 2015 in a Conserve Audit carried out by the John Muir Trust and the National Park.

This engagement has promoted responsible behaviour, as well as contributing to the Park's Biodiversity Action Plan Wildpark 2020.

Twenty-five groups - including schools and colleges, outdoor centres, youth and adult organisations, families and individuals - were monitored in a range of habitats across the National Park as part of the Conserve Challenge of their John Muir Award. **Over 25%** of these participants were people experiencing some form of disadvantage.

Where did people make a difference?



"It has been great to see how the John Muir Award is helping make a link between the National Park's conservation and engagement activities. A National Park is for everyone to enjoy and care for, and whether you're an adult group, youth group, outdoor centre or school group - the John Muir Award seems to give a good focus to do this."

Alan Bell, Conservation Manager, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Conserve Audit – making a difference to Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Collectively, John Muir Award groups...

- removed **364m²** of invasive rhododendron
- picked up **131** bags of litter
- built and maintained over **a kilometre** of fencing
- created **129** wildlife habitats – for red squirrels, birds and mini-beasts
- planted **30m** of hedgerow, **14** trees and **20m²** of wildflower meadow
- dug **52m** of drainage ditches
- added **34** bird feeders
- created **15** compost heaps

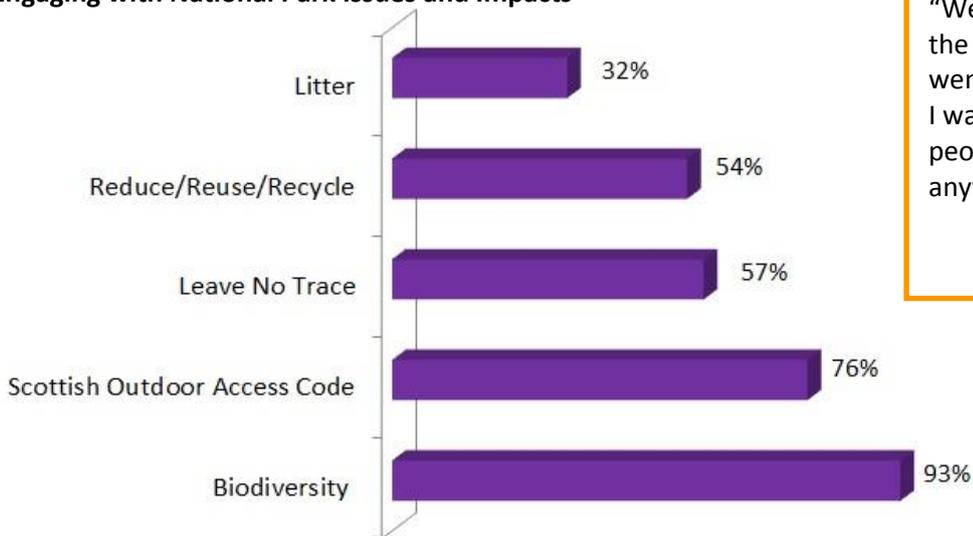
"I think finishing the fence was a really good accomplishment, finally seeing three days of work come together. It was just a good sense of achievement"

**Trailblazer Volunteer,
National Trust for Scotland, Ben Lomond**

Meeting the Conserve Challenge of the John Muir Award included contributing to regional and national campaigns, surveys and studies in the National Park:

- **Over 1000** people engaged directly with biodiversity in the National Park, including contributing to three of the five Wild Challenges in Wildpark 2020 (Red Squirrels, Invasive non-native Species and Our Woodland Habitat).
- **Over 800** participants were introduced to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. **600+** people practiced using Leave No Trace principles.
- Surveys were completed for **five National Survey** organisations - The Woodland Trust, Open Air Laboratories (OPAL), Scottish Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Marine Conservation Society.

Engaging with National Park Issues and Impacts



% of John Muir Award participants in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Apr 2014 – Mar 2015

“We didn’t realise how bad the litter problem was until we went about the whole place. I was annoyed to see how people just drop their rubbish anywhere.”

**Sam Chilcott, Student,
Ardfern Learning Centre**

Who supported John Muir Award activities?

Over **40%** of groups completed the Conserve Challenge of the John Muir Award as part of a residential experience in the National Park with:

- Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre
- Ardmay House Outdoor Education Centre
- Benmore Centre for Outdoor Learning

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Ranger Service supported groups directly with their Conserve Challenge, as did other **key partner organisations** including:

- National Trust for Scotland Ben Lomond
- Woodland Trust
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Scottish Wildlife Trust
- Stirling Council Ranger Services
- West Dunbartonshire Ranger Service



Pupil clearing Rhododendron in Argyll with Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre

“Our curriculum provided pupils with the chance to achieve their John Muir Award certificate along with lifelong skills and, ultimately, the understanding of why wild spaces are important to enjoy and conserve.”

**Jonathon Hoyland, Support for Learning Unit,
Our Lady and St Patricks High School, West Dunbartonshire**

The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme that supports and encourages people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places. It is the main engagement initiative of the John Muir Trust and is delivered in partnership with Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. For more info see www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/learning/john-muir-award/menu-id-973.html.

For more information on the John Muir Award and other Conserve Audits visit www.johnmuiraward.org.

